Person per annum to the State Governments on fulfilling the stipulated terms and conditions for improvement of medical scheme. There was no discussion in the meeting of the ESI Corporation held on 23.12.2006 regarding reimbursement of expenses over the prescribed ceiling. The ESI Corporation has issued instructions conveying the enhancement of ceiling to State Governments on 24.01.2007.

Regional branches of EPF Appellate Tribunal

4529. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases are pending before the EPF Appellate Tribunal;

(b) what is the rate of disposal of cases before the EPF Appellate Tribunal during the last one year; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to establish regional benches of Employees Provident Fund Appellate Tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As on 31.3.2007, 4160 cases are pending before the EPF Appellate Tribunal.

(b) 267 cases were disposed of in the year 2006-07.

(c) Yes, Sir. The proposal to establish additional benches is under examination.

Pension fund scheme for unorganised sector

4530. SHRI. N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create pension fund scheme for the unorganized sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the approximate number of beneficiaries estimated to be covered by this scheme, State-wise?